



Chase discloses a metal-plated plastic overlay on a disk of a vehicle wheel. The overlay covers the entirety of the disk. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the cover of the present invention “has deformable narrow spokes portions for partially covering, along a radial direction of the wheel, a disk radial portion” of the wheel. In contrast, the overlay “spokes” in Chase entirely cover the underlying webs 14a of the wheel as opposed to the present invention where the spoke portions only partially cover the disk radial portion. Accordingly, this feature is not disclosed in the Chase reference.

In addition, claim 1 also recites that the deformable narrow spoke portions are provided with thin, deformable parts covering the approximately middle part of the disk radial portion. When read in combination with the above feature that recites that the spoke portion only partially covers the disk radial portion, Applicant respectfully submits that the Chase reference clearly does not suggest placing the spoke portion only in a middle part of the disk radial portion due to it only partially covering the radial disk portion. Applicant respectfully submits that the arrangement of a spoke portion in the middle part of the disk radial portion is clearly not disclosed in the Chase reference.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that several features recited in claim 1 are not disclosed in the Chase reference and therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as amended, are earnestly solicited.

Claims 3-5 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 1, as amended.

Claim 6 has been added and recites that the thin, deformable part is positioned so that side edge portions of the disk radial portion on either side of the thin, deformable part are visible and extend radially outward from side edges of the thin, deformable part.

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